

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0057] as follows:

[0057] FIGS. 8 and 9 show the results of a finite element analysis performed on the a
~~modified rear ferrule in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. This rear ferrule~~
~~is the same as~~ shown in FIG. 5. As particularly evident in FIG. 9, the region of high stress
concentration is substantially reduced in size when compared to FIG. 7. This indicates that the
stresses have been more uniformly dispersed over the rear face of the flange of the rear ferrule.
Thus, the torque is reduced and the potential for galling is likewise reduced.